

**Annual Report**

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**Two pages**

FINFISH RESOURCE SURVEYS IN NORTON SOUND AND KOTZEBUE SOUND

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## I. Task Objectives

The objectives of this research unit are to:

- 1) Determine the spatial and temporal distribution, species composition and relative abundance of finfishes in the coastal waters of Norton Sound and Kotzebue Sound east of 166 Degrees West Longitude.
- 2) Determine the timing and routes of juvenile salmon migrations as well as examine age and growth, relative maturity and food habits of important species in Norton Sound and Kotzebue Sound east of 166 Degrees West Longitude.
- 3) Determine the spatial and temporal distribution and relative abundance of spawning populations of herring and other forage fish within the study area.
- 4) Monitor egg density, distribution and development and document types of spawning substrates of herring and other forage fish species.
- 5) Monitor local resident subsistence utilization of the herring fishery resource.

## II. Field Activities

A brief summary of results for the 1977 field season has been provided in the OCS quarterly reports submitted in July, September and December. Detailed analysis and discussion of these results is being prepared in the project completion report due September 30, 1978. Activities this past quarter (January through March) have been associated entirely with drafting of this latter report, with the exception of a single winter trip. A trip was made in March, 1978 to the Port Clarence area where gillnets were set under the

ice in order to obtain winter herring samples for AWL analysis.

111. Results and Preliminary Interpretation

No species of fish were captured during the winter sampling trip to Port Clarence in March, 1978. As stated, results of the 1977 season will be presented in the project completion report. A first draft of this report was about 50 percent completed by the end of this quarter.

IV. Problems and Changes

None during this quarter. Problems experienced in the 1977 field season will be included in the project completion report.

v. Estimate of Funds Expended

A balance of approximately \$35,000 remains for RU 19 studies. These monies will cover salaries needed to finalize the project completion report. A limited amount will be used for printing costs and computer time.